

Superintendent's Advisory Council
Minutes June 1, 2016
9:00-11:00 a.m.
MISD Board Room

Members Present: Stephanie John-Lewis, Evelyn Jimenez, Mike Radow, Jenny McAlaine, Gwen Loosmore, Alison Stovall, Ashleigh Dickinson, Janelle Honeycutt, Taylor Kao, Kim Comstock, Dr. Goichi Shiotsu, Jerry Kavesh, Myra Lupton, Paulette Denman, Emmett Maloof, Cindy Goodwin, Robert Thorpe, Dr. Gary Plano, Fred Rundle, Mike Bylsma, Craig Degginger, Dr. Dave Myerson.

Absent: Tom Tivnan, Elaine McClellan, Mindi Oberg, Jackie Brown, Debbie Hanson, Rory Murphy, Sarah Stewart, James Bellitto, Tiger McBurney, Sarah LeClercq, Jayme Witman, Julie Steel, Janae Serena, Dan Grausz.

Welcome

Dr. Plano called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Develop and Finalize Agenda

The minutes were reviewed and updated to correct misspellings to members' names and the council then approved the minutes.

Superintendent Topics:

1. Water Testing and Results
2. Northwood Elementary and IMS Dedications
3. Intra-district Transfers
4. Elementary Spanish-Language Program
5. Bell Times for Elementary Schools and MIHS

Additional topics at committee members' request:

Northwood traffic impacts and improvements

District hiring

Rankings

Participation rates on testing

1. Water Testing and Results

Following the recent issue in the Tacoma schools, which revealed testing showing high lead levels more than a year ago, without any mitigation, the MISD has tested 77 fixtures, with 74 showing no lead levels, while three fixtures showing some lead but below the level required for action and which have subsequently been replaced at Islander Middle School and Island Park. The district plans to continue to test on an annual basis. The city has also tested its water, and it is well under the EPA standards. The Legislature has a law requiring testing but since no funding was attached to the requirement, a rule was enacted by the State, which does not require schools to test for lead.

2. Northwood Elementary and Islander Middle School dedications

Dr. Plano invited the members to the Northwood dedication and open house on Saturday, June 18, 9 to 11:30 a.m. A post card has been mailed to the community. Northwood will serve about 400 students in grades Pre-K to 5. It is the first new elementary to be constructed on Mercer Island in over 50 years. He showed the construction updates on the web - the building features flexible learning spaces for each classroom pod; for special learning spaces; or an entire class, Tiles in the restrooms were created by students going to Northwood. Staff participated in the design of the building.

Showing the construction progress at IMS, Dr. Plano said that a dedication and open house would be held there in late September. The building is on time and budget; the present multi-purpose room will be demolished this summer. Changes will be made to parking this summer as the construction shifts to other areas.

Regarding traffic improvements in the North Mercer Complex area, Dr. Plano said the district is making frontage improvements on 86th SE and on SE 40th St. The city is expected to create a westbound left turn lane on SE 40th to 86th SE and additions to signage for a school zone. The district is working with the city on these issues. There will be safety patrols on SE 40th and SE 42nd with crossing guards.

Members asked about adding crosswalks on SE 42nd, which is a busy street. They are desired but discussions with the city to fill the ditches with culverts have not been successful. The City will be discussing its Transportation Improvement Plan this month.

District is installing stop arm cameras on some buses to be operable this fall. There are no plans for school zones cameras as that would be a city decision.

3. Intra-district transfers

Dr. Plano explained that when elementary school boundaries were redrawn a year ago, parents were informed about them and intra-district transfer process. Fred Rundle said there were 100 applicants to have intra-district transfers to stay at their current school, with special consideration to 5th grade requests. The district was able to accommodate all of the Island Park, Northwood and West Mercer requests, and most at Lakeridge.

A lottery was conducted to be transparent and fair to everyone and wait lists were established, and to be reviewed at the end of June, and again in mid-August. Class sections are still being added as needed. Families had option to appeal pursuant to Administrative Policy 4220. A family that accepts an intra-district transfer waives district-provided transportation.

4. Elementary Spanish-Language Program

Dr. Plano said the district is moving forward with a new Spanish-language program to begin in the fall of 2016. Spanish will be taught in instructional segments on a rotation basis with P.E. and Music. The district's study of a world language program has spanned two academic years. We have recruited four qualified teachers, one a native speaker, for this program and are developing curriculum.

Regarding hiring, Dr. Plano said the district traveled to job fairs in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Los Angeles, San Diego and Michigan and met many outstanding applicants. The District hired perhaps 30 staff and have only a small number remaining to fill.

Regarding rankings, Dr. Plano noted that *U.S. News & World Report* again recognized MIHS as one of America's Best High Schools. These rankings are primarily based on AP scores. Our students are scoring incredibly well in all areas. He cited *Destination Imagination*, where Mercer Island elementary, middle school and high school teams finished among the best in a global event.

Dr. Plano said participation rates on testing rose significantly at the high school to 77 percent compared to in the 20s last year, middle school was close to 95 percent and elementary at that 95 percent level as well.

5. Bell Times for Elementary Schools and MIHS

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, the high school will start at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesdays only and the instructional day will end at 2:50 p.m. The high school schedule for the remaining days of the week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) will remain at an 8:00 a.m. start and a 3:00 p.m. end to the instructional day. At the elementary level the district is adding 10 minutes to the school day, moving the beginning of the school day from 9:10 to 9:15 and end time 10 minutes later at 3:45. But with four schools, bus rides will be reduced by half or more. Elementary early-release will occur at 2:05 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. A new meeting schedule will be developed for 2016-17 and distributed to the committee members.